

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, lines 6-20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The collar 26 is separately shown in Figs. 14 and 15. The collar 26 includes an enlarged diameter cylindrical portion 50 sized to be received within base 24 and with an end 51 abutting the end plate 36 of base 24. An outer wall 52 is threaded to mate with the internal threading 44 of base 24. An inner wall 53 of enlarged diameter cylindrical portion 50 remains spaced from inner cylinder 40 to define a void for receiving springs as will be described (and as shown in Figs. 1-2). The collar 26 also includes a reduced diameter portion 54 with the reduced diameter portion 54 and the enlarged diameter cylindrical portion 50 connected at an annular stop surface 56 shown in Fig. 15. For purposes that will become apparent, the reduced diameter portion 54 includes a slot 58 at an end 59 of portion 54. Linearly aligned with slot 58 is a hole 61.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, lines 17-27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The main body 70 includes a first axial slot 74 extending partially through a distal end 75 of the body 70. Disposed axially spaced from slot 74 is a second slot 76 extending through the main body 70. A pin receiving hole 77 extends through body 70 perpendicular to slot 76. Ninety degrees offset from slots 74, 76 are access holes 78 in communication with a hollow interior 80 of cylinder 72. Ninety degrees offset from slot 74 are pockets 82, 83 with axes of the pockets 82, 83 in coaxial alignment with one another and in communication with the slot 74. The ~~base~~ distal end 75 has a ramped ridge 79 extending parallel to hole 77.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, lines 22-33, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in Figs. 18-25, the sampler 32 includes a body 100 formed of injection molded plastic. The body 100 includes a rear handle portion 101 and a forward sampling portion 102. The handle portion 101 is sized to be gripped by the fingers of a user. At the forward sampling ~~end~~ portion 102, the body 100 is provided with a hub or piston 104. The piston 104 is cylindrical and sized to be received in close sliding tolerance within the reduced diameter cylinder 64 of shell 28. The piston terminates at a flat second pressure surface 106 which is generally perpendicular to the axis of the needle 10. While a flat surface 106 is preferred, other shapes (e.g., concave) could be used.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, lines 1-18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The needle 10 protrudes beyond the surface 106 a distance equal to a desired penetration of the needle 10 into a patient's skin layer. As disclosed in the aforementioned international publication, distance of protrusion of needle 10 is about 1.5 mm to ensure protrusion of the needle 10 into but not through a dermal layer of a patient's skin. At the sampling end 102, the main body 100 is provided with a relief 108 surrounding a hole 110 formed through the body. The hole 110 is in communication with a proximal end 11 of the needle 10. Accordingly, an absorbent material 12 such as the material 210' shown in Figs. 16-20 of the aforementioned International Publication No. WO95/10223 may be placed within the relief 108 such that interstitial fluid which flows up the needle 10 will be deposited upon the membrane 12. The ~~membrane~~ absorbent material 12 is held in place through any suitable means such as by an adhesive ring 111 (or, alternatively, ultrasonic bonding or other bonding technique).

Please replace the section on page 11, lines 26-35, with the following rewritten section:

The main body 100 is provided with an arcuate rib 113 sized and shaped to abut an exterior surface of the optics housing 30 on both sides of the slot 74 and to curve beneath the base 75. A latching member 112 is connected to the body 100. The latching member 112 pivots at a point of connection to the body 100 and includes a lever arm 114 exposed at the handle portion 101 such that the lever ~~member~~ arm 114 may be depressed by a user. The latch 112 further includes a latching end 116 sized and positioned to be received within the hole 76 of the optics housing 30.

Please replace the section on page 12, lines 1-17, with the following rewritten section:

The latching end 116 includes a detent 118 (Figs. 1-2) positioned to engage and receive the ramp 95 of the lock pin 94 within the detent 118 when the sampler 32 is inserted within the slots 74, 76 in a predetermined alignment and with the sampling location 110 disposed within the light path between the source 90 and detector 92. A leading end of the ~~locking~~ latching end 116 is provided with a ramped surface to ride over the pin 94 upon insertion of the sampler 32 within the optics housing 30 and to provide a positive lock as the pin is received within the detent 118. To further secure the sampler 32 in optics housing 30 in the desired alignment, sampler housing 100 has a detent 117 (Fig. 23) to receive ridge 79 on the base 75 of optics housing 30. The sampler 32 may be easily removed by a user depressing end 114 thereby raising end 116 for the pin 94 to clear the detent 118 permitting removal of the sampler 32 from the apparatus.